

THE ACCOMMODATION INITIATIVE OF VAS

Accommodation for African Students in Austria

VAS Österreich is an association of African Students in Austria, whose mission is to:

- **create a suitable environment for excellent scientific research and academic success**
- **engage in the promotion of African cultures in Austria**
- **encourage entrepreneurship for disseminating innovative knowledge in Austria**
- **establish solidarity for a sustainable positive change in Austrian society**

Subject:

Accommodation for African Students in Austria

Assumption:

Concerning the housing situation of Students in Austria, African Students mainly have to face challenges of discrimination issues on several levels due to reasons of prejudices, disrespect and distrust, overpriced financing et al.

The accessibility and availability of accommodation for African Students will contribute to a higher living standard on all levels mentioned and therefore would assure better studying conditions in general.

The activity of **the Association of African Students in Austria (VAS)** on the residential market will first of all facilitate and improve the overall study conditions of African Students and will furthermore minimize and even prevent the risk of homelessness.

Aim of the Project:

VAS wants to guarantee several accommodation options for African Students in Vienna: with minimum two rooms per surface, 4 beds, providing an accommodation possibility for each sex/gender.

These accommodation options would enable African Students to gain ground in Vienna. In the course of years of study, African Students encounter difficulties on several levels in Austria. The financial aspect is the most incriminatory element amongst them.

Providing several rooms for African Students during the period of study will contribute largely to a facilitation and improvement of living conditions in Austria.

Target group:

- Priority for African Students who are in urgent need of adequate accommodation for studying purpose
- All Students studying at Universities/Academies in Vienna
- All Students in social and/or financial need

Expected Results:

First and foremost, the **Accommodation Initiative of VAS** wants to grant financial facilitation and afford stability of living for Students:

- To initially provide studying access and enable sufficient studying foci
- To temporarily bridge the gap in case of inevitable challenges and uncontrollable circumstances
- To allow and support long-term success in studying as expected
- To provide alternatives to students depending on other parties in order to guarantee an autonomous and independent living standard
- To create a highly esteemed environment for individuals
- To obviate financial dependency and other intolerable forms of subjection (such as prostitution)

Planned Activities of VAS Austria:

1. Informative Meetings: Space for Discussions, Debates, Basic and Specific Information Desks
2. "Stammtisch"/Regular's Table: for Companies and Corporations
3. Partnership Planning and Accomplishment: Partnership with the Department of African Studies/University of Vienna for Accommodation Facilities
4. Helpdesk and Homepage specialized in providing any information necessary and still missing for African Students in Vienna (equal to *Studentpoint* Austria for general information)
5. Activity of "Kulturwoche": Cultural Week emphasizing on specific cultural activities of most of the association members' countries and regions (Concerts, Debates, Lectures, Performances, African Cuisine of unique culinary regions et al.)
6. Publication: "Buchprojekt"

Resources Needed for Accommodation:

The specified budget depends on the actual amount of the Accommodation Facility.

VAS has based the amount for Accommodation Facilities on an average of an actual rental prize in Vienna of the year 2013.

All amounts are indicated in Euros.

ACCOMMODATION	MONTHLY RENT	ANNUALLY RENT
Room for male students with two sleeping facilities	500,--	6.000,--
Room for female students with two sleeping facilities	500,--	6.000,--
Total Amount €	1.000,--	12.000,--

The realization of the Accommodation Initiative of VAS is planned for August 2013.